



Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona
José de Jesus Rivera

PRESS RELEASE

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For Information Contact Public Affairs
(602) 514-7561

FORMER BANK BRANCH MANAGER SENTENCED TO TWO YEARS IN PRISON FOR STEALING \$895,000

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- KATHY JEAN, 37, of Chandler, Arizona was sentenced on Monday to 27 months imprisonment for embezzling \$895,538 from Norwest bank.

The defendant was formerly employed as a branch manager for Norwest Bank in Mesa, Arizona. On October 19, 1999, the defendant pleaded guilty, in federal district court, to three counts of Bank Theft by an Employee. **KATHY JEAN** admitted that from March 1996 through February 1999, she made a large number of cash advances, to herself, from lines of credit and installment loans that belonged to bank customers. In an attempt to conceal the theft, the defendant altered bank records so that correspondence to customers regarding the installment loans and lines of credit were directed to her, instead of the customer who owned the account. To further conceal her actions, the defendant applied payments towards the installment loans and lines of credit, however, she paid them with funds from the banks internal ledger account and from the lines of credit. On October 28, 1997, the defendant used the internal ledger account to issue a check in the amount of \$20,000. On January 15, 1998, she issued a check for \$47,846.90, and on May 22, 1998, a check for \$21,325.26. The defendant used the proceeds from the cashier's checks for her own personal benefit.

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The investigation that led to the successful prosecution of this case was conducted by the Bank Fraud Task Force which is comprised of agents and officers from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Phoenix Police Department, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, Arizona State Attorney General's Office, and the Maricopa County Attorney's Office.

The case was prosecuted by James Burke, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

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